Register Sign In

Sitemap Help Make us your homepage

PREDICT YOUR FORMULA ONE RESUON THE NEW PREDICTOR SITE BY SCOTS



Obstoday

ADVERTISEMENT

You can save a life

GIVE BLOOD

CLICK HERE

property today motors today

local pages today

Site Web

Search

enhanced by Google Home News Sport Business Your Say Newspaper Health Info Money scotsman.com | Edinburgh | Scotland | UK | International | Politics | Education | Health | Entertainment | Opinion | Crossword | Features | Video

Monday, 30th March 2009

Change Date

* Blogs

The Steamie

Sections

Edinburgh West Lothian

Midlothian

East Lothian Scotland

UK International

Sport

Business Politics

Education

Health

Environment Transport

Entertainment

Technology

Opinion

Video archive

Crossword

Article Index

Other Sections

Back Issues

Features

Supplements

Other Sites

More News

More Sport

More Business

The Scotsman Scotland on Sunday

Heritage & Culture

Living

Dating

Announcements

Money Scotsman Shop

Scotsman Hotels

Fantasy Golf

Photos Today

Local Pages Edinburgh Festivals

What's this?

Note-perfect production is a delight

Published Date: 20 March 2009

By JOSIE BALFOUR

Patience King's Theatre

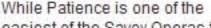
ANYONE who thinks that the cult of celebrity began with Princess Diana and Britney Spears may want to take a seat front row at the King's this week and check out Patience.

Back in the late-1800s – generations before the likes of Russell Brand and Pete Doherty it was the poets of the

aesthetic movement who held sway. The rock stars of their day,

these poets devoted their lives to beauty and the classic form, in the process coining the term "art for art's sake" and inspiring a trend for all things exquisite.

Parodying this Victorian fad with their own particular brand of sharp observational humour, Gilbert and Sullivan go to town in this tale of thwarted love and romantic ideals.



easiest of the Savoy Operas to place in a modern setting, exchanging Aestheticism for the Beat movement or even Hollywood stars, the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Edinburgh have chosen to remain true to the original intent of the play.

It's a decision that was not lost on the enchanted audience last night., who derived a great deal of joy from the faithful portrayal.

Indeed, the dedication of the performers, quality of music and set decoration firmly took the production out of the amateur dramatic and placed it firmly into the range of semiprofessional.

Add to that the relatively cheap ticket cost and the show could easily give most of the professional operas that arrive in Edinburgh a good run for their money.

The company's proficient recital was assisted in no small part by Alan Borthwick, a director with a genuine appreciation of the intent behind the text and an excellent eye for comic timing and ensemble scenes.

Borthwick's own turn as the narcissistic Archibald Grosvenor is cheerfully mischievous, but his real skill lies in drawing out excellent performances from his co-stars.

While some of the cast lack the vocal strength and stamina of professional singers, they make up for any shortcomings with enthusiasm and an obvious affection for the music.

The women in the chorus were in fine fettle as the 20 fickle, heartsick maidens. alternately pining for the love of Ian Lawson's deliciously devious Reginald Bunthorne and the soldiers they'd spurned for beauty; after all, how can one love a man whose uniform is in primary colours? Their classical poses were a highlight and Susan Horsburgh's lovelorn Lady Jane made the most of every comic opportunity on stage.

Enter the men, who, upon discovering that their women folk have been seduced by a man in a floppy hat, resolve to win them back by any means necessary.

Meanwhile, level-headed milkmaid Patience finds herself in a dilemma when she is advised that true love is always unselfish. Should she, then, marry the poet she loves and deprive the world of his beauty or the poet she despises, thus living unselfishly?

Though it's not a dilemma for modern women, it gave Debbie Wake the chance to shine as the perplexed heroine. Fortunately Patience is not beautiful, so it's acceptable for her poet suitors to love her unselfishly. What a pity, in our plastic surgery obsessed culture, that some things are harder to translate than others.

Evening News

Print article

☐ Decrease text size Be the first to comment

on this article...

More Features

- Agnes the tailor is sew popular as she celebrates her 103rd birthday
- Ten Questons: Dr Elspeth Atkinson of Macmillan Cancer Support
- Holly Scott's top pets
- Cold snap
- Joke of the day

More Features >>





Sponsored Feature

EVENINGNEWS ALERT

Sign up to find out what's happening in your area...

Live in the 'EH' postcode? Available to registered users only

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Scottish business news delivered to your desk by e-mail every morning...

Stay informed

Featured Advertising **NEW Dining Out**

Great dining deals with

scotsman.com book now

Register for scotsman.com

Keep up to date with news and events on scotsman.com

2008 Holiday Deals

Book your next well deserved break NOW